GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1981
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
LOW PRODUCTION OF COTTON
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that India ranked 3rd in the world in production of cotton, the yield per hectare for cotton in the country is lower than the average production of the world: (

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; (

(c) whether the estimated cotton production for 2006-07, made by the Cotton Advisory Board, has placed India only next to China even above U.S.A; (

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cotton production for the current year, as against 2005-06 and 2004-05; and (

(e) the extent to which BT Cotton seeds help to increase the yield per hectare in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; (

(f) whether any target has been set in 2006-07 with regard to greater yield of cotton per hectare: and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): Yes sir, it is a fact that though India is ranking third in the world in cotton production and though the yield per hectare in the country has been rising continuously since last three years, the cotton productivity in the country at 467 kgs per hectare during 2005-06 has been low as compared to world average cotton productivity of 725 kgs per hectare. The yield per hectare for cotton in the country has been low mainly due to the fact that more than 60 per cent area under cotton cultivation is rainfed and other reasons like non-availability of sufficient quality inputs, timely release of canal water and transfer of technology.

(c) & (d): Yes sir, with the estimated cotton production at 270 lakh bales (4.59 million metric tons) during 2006-07, the country is likely to surpass the estimated cotton production of USA at 4.43 million metric tons during 2006-07. The details of estimated cotton production in India vis-Ã -vis USA during current year as against 2005-06 and 2004-05 are as under:

Figures in Million metric tons

Year	India	USA
2006-07	4.59	4.43
2005-06	4.15	5.20
2004-05	4.13	5.06

Source: ICAC release 2nd October 2006

(e): Availability of good quality and certified seeds plays an important role in increasing the yield per hectare. In recent years, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Government of India have released Bt varieties for commercial cultivation, which has enabled the cotton farmers to increase the yield per hectare. In Andhra Pradesh, the GEAC has so far released seven Bt varieties viz., RCH-2, RCB-20, RCH-368, MRC-6322, MRC-6918, NCH-145 Bunny and NCH-207 Mallika for commercial cultivation.

(f) & (g): Yes Sir, under the Xth Plan, the yield per hectare in the country for the terminal year 2006-07 had been targeted at 388 kgs per hectare. The same was achieved in the year 2003-04, when the average yield per hectare was 399 kgs. With the estimation of area under cotton cultivation at 92 lakh hectare and production estimate of 270 lakh bales by the Cotton Advisory Board during 2006-07, the average cotton yield per hectare in India can be projected at 499 kgs.